PARAPHRASE

K 11630. c. 7 8

ON THE

CREATION.

By a Young GENTLEMAN.

Εκεῖνος ὅσα χάρμα ἅλλοις ἔθηκεν, τις ἂν φράσαι δύναιτο.

PINDAR.

LONDON:

for the AUTHOR, and sold by M. COOPER in *Pater-noster-Row.*

MDCCXLIV.

A

PARAPHRASE

This Belongs To George's Coffee House Temple Bar

ON THE

CREATION.

WHEN all was wrapt in one continued night,
And a great void ſhun'd limit to 'ts extent,
Indiſſoluble then; th' all-ſeeing Lord,
That was 'fore time had birth or knew to move,
Willed the great Creation, and firſt form'd
The ambient roof of heav'n, and the maſs
Of ſtupid earth. But the wide void receiv'd
No emblematic form. An univerſal night:

Hung o'er the unillumin'd deep, and mov'd
The Holy Spirit thro' the azure way.
Then flow'd commands from God's eternal mouth,
Let light be, and it was. And pleas'd he made
Juſteſt diviſion 'twixt the radiant light
And darkneſs: One the Day he call'd, but Night
The other. This the firſt important day.
Again, he ſaid, be firmament amidſt
The deep, great ſtranger to commotion;
And waters ſep'rate from the waters depth:
And God, as ſoon as will'd a firmament,
It form'd, and ſeparated the waters maſs
That was below, from them that ſtood above;
And as he will'd it was, and call'd it heav'n.
The ruddy even, and the dawn of morn
Now form'd a ſecond day: And ſpoke th' Almighty,
Waters your wide extended face collect,
And, in the ſpace aſſign'd, move uncontroul'd;

Or

Or ſoftly glide, by calm ſucceſſion urg'd,
Of ſmootheſt waves, or foaming beat the ſhore,
And fight tumultuous 'gainſt the ſphere of heav'n.
Thou too, O Land, th' Almighty ſaid, appear;
And as he will'd it was. This call'd Jehovah
Earth; and the Sea, collected waters nam'd.
At this conceiv'd he pleaſure, ſince 'twas good.
Again, th' Almighty ſpoke: Wave joyous fields
With ſmiling verdure; and thou earth bring forth
The efficacious ſeed, that gives a birth;
And trees, that dare aſſume the height of heav'n,
In fruit apparell'd, that their parent ſpeak:
And as God will'd it was. The fields around,
In verdure cloath'd, confeſs the mighty work;
And the high trees ſhoot ſudden from the earth;
And the thick fruit faſt crowd upon the eye.
At this conceiv'd he pleaſure, ſince 'twas good;
And ruddy even, and the dawn of morn

To

To a third day gave birth. Thus the Almighty
In heav'n's vaſt ſphere : Be radiant lights, as ſigns
Moſt juſt for gilded days ; and nights leſs clear,
Be theſe to mark the ſeaſons faſt approach,
T' adjuſt the day and quick-revolving years,
With new-born luſtre pleaſed earth to glad ;
And as he will'd it was. Two lights ſtraight ſhone,
The great, the potent ſovereign of the day ;
The leſs, the erring courſe of night to guide :
Stars too, th'unnumber'd eyes of heav'n, he form'd,
And for their place the firmament aſſign'd,
To chear the ſick'ned world ; and pleas'd conceiv'd
Jehovah ſecret joy, and this the fruits
The fourth day bore important. And thus ſpoke
Almighty wiſdom : Straight, O ſea, give birth
To affluence of creatures, in whom life
Stands innate. Wand'ring flocks of fowl ariſe
That wing thro' ambient air your rapid way.

Straight

Straight the huge bulk of Whale, which ſhuns dimenſion,
Mov'd his great ſide, and ſtruck with length of tail
The troubled Ocean. Sporting Fiſh too skim
O'er the wide depth, and wanton in the wave:
The winged Fowl, thro' breadth of air urg'd on,
As covetous of haſte, their circling way,
Which their true helm, with faithful guidance ſteer'd.
And ſpoke it good th' All-wiſe, who fav'ring bleſs'd
Th' abundant birth; and ſaid, ſupply receive
Ample and copious be with theſe replete:
O Sea, and Fowl your flock enhance on earth:
The ruddy even, and the dawn of morn,
The fifth day form'd. Then thus th' Almighty ſpoke:
Give birth to beaſts that eager roam, O Earth,
O'er craggy precipice, or feed in plains;

That groveling creep o'er e'ery moſſy turf,
Or climb with indolence a height of wall.
He ſaid, and ſtraight th' aſpiring mountains croud
Tumultuous beaſts, that ſwifteſt bound from rocks
To higher tops; others amidſt the plain,
Sportive in paſtime, wanton o'er the day,
And bleat their eager loves. The ſpotted Snake
Slily creeps o'er the earth, ſucceſſive drawing
The circling ringlets of his curled back:
Others, too fond of flow'ry ſweets, aſcend
The bended ſtalks, that bear with ſharpeſt pain,
The en'my's weight, and there indulgent brood.
This ſaw th' All-wiſe, and greateſt joy conceiv'd.
Again he ſpoke: Image of God ariſe,
And rule the Fiſh that wanton in the wave:
Be thine the fowl that wing their rapid courſe
Thro' th' airy region; and the ſportive beaſts
That breath a joyous life; the creeping thing,

The

The Earth, thy pow'r ſhall ſpeak. Scarce ſooner ſaid,
Than form'd was Man: The image of his God,
Male was he made and Female; him much bleſs'd
Omnipotence divine: And thus th' Almighty:
First Man, the new-born image of thy God,
The earth repleniſh with a bleſſed offspring,
And be o'er it thy power. To thee I give
The herb that wantons with each gentle gale,
And ſeed contains; the Tree too thine, that bears
A fruit the complete image of itſelf;
This thy great life's ſupport. To ſwifteſt beaſts,
To winged fowl, and it that groveling creeps
O'er moſſy turfs, the verdant herbs I give,
As apteſt food: And as he will'd it was.
And now th' All-wiſe the mighty work ſurvey'd,
Attentive, and he ſpoke the great Creation good.
The ruddy even and the dawn of morn

To

To the ſixth day gave birth; but end to void.
Thus in unalter'd form ſtood heav'n's wide arch,
That bounds the out-caſt of eternal ſpace;
That far as ſtrong conception can ſurvey,
Its curved ſurface bears Earth's heavy maſs,
Was plac'd infix'd amidſt the riſing ſurge,
Indiſſolubly ſtrong, its parts were link'd,
Harmoniouſly regular and juſt.
They to the centre of th' attracting Earth
Direct their eager courſe, and bend their way,
With conteſt, to the goal, and form an orb.
From that dear hour, when diſappear'd a void,
When all were dreſs'd in their great Maker's garb,
And the great Something claim'd its mighty reign,
Th' Almighty lull'd the thoughts of work aſleep,
And huſh'd each ſenſe of pain. The day of eaſe,
By all eſteem'd, he bleſs'd and call'd it Holy.
Thence ſprung the Sabbath, thence all ſacred eaſe

To mortal labour, and the work of God,
As yet remain'd the great important task,
Creation of a Man; to till the ground,
To cut the pregnant Corn, the Sod to turn,
To yoke the Oxens ſtrength, to ſow the field:
For now each plant the work of nature ſpeaks:
And firſt; no ſed'lous hand had yet ungirt
The ſpacious boſom of the verdant earth;
Nor cut the waving flow of Corn or Graſs:
But the aſcending vapours of the ground,
In limpid bubbles, earth with moiſture fed;
Each turf aduſt new life receiv'd and bloom'd
In new-born green, when it the juice imbib'd;
Yet was the duſt new modell'd, and a man
The moulded clay confeſs'd; the breath of life:
Th' Almighty breath'd in him; the fabric moves,
The well-made world in miniature complete,
Where the bright Sun begins his radiant courſe.

In Eden, field of happineſs, he plac'd
The man, great ſyſtem of perfection,
Stranger to paſſions, influence and vice;
Virtue his arms, he 'ſdains the wicked Hoſt,
Virtue's his victor; and he vanquiſh'd, treads
Safeſt amidſt the fire of flagrant ſin.
Here the Almighty bid the Tree ariſe,
That thoughts convey of pleaſure, and a food
Apteſt for man. The ſacred tree of life,
Amidſt the pleaſant plot imperial ſtood;
Nigh it the tree that faithful bears to ſouls
Of good and evil knowledge. Hence far flow'd
From Eden hallow'd land a torrents pride,
To bath with pureſt waves ſelected ground:
From thence the ſtream diſparts its wanton flood,
And forms four ample heads. Piſon the firſt,
That ſporting with a circling tide begirts
All Havilah, where big with golden birth,

The

The ſubterraneous caverns heave the min'ral,
And fire with pride each captivated ſoul:
Here too ſhoots up with blackeſt dye inſtain'd
Th' aſpiring Bdelliums height, whence flows deceit
A fragrant odor, but ungrateful taſte:
Here grows the Onyx, vegetable ſtone,
Intrinſic good, for man a future grace.
The ſecond ſource gives birth to Gihon ſtream
That wantons by its flowery banks, and bends
Its limpid waves round Æthiopian land,
That ſpeaks refreſhment from the ſwelling tide.
The third diſparted torrent flows a Hid'kell,
Which by ſucceſſion of a watry war,
Thro' the wide tract wings on its curled way
To the Eaſt limits of Aſſyrian field,
And baths in pureſt waves th' improved ſoil,
Which, big with flowing corn, confeſs it true.
The fourth, the great Euphrates bends its courſe,

With

With ſtately torrent to the pride of earth,
Babylon, the pompous ſeat of ſovereigns,
And laves with wanton ſtream the long extended wall;
Here was the image of the godhead plac'd,
In ſpot ſelected from the grov'ling world,
To nurſe each plant improving, and to tend
The ſickning flower. To turn the verdant turf,
And bear from pureſt rills the waters depth
Each fainting tree to chear, and ſed'lous reap
Th' indulgent birth of fields, the waving corn;
To him th' Almighty thus. Adam replete
With fruit that e'ery loaded branch ſuſtains,
Unhurt, uninjur'd, breath th' enlivning air,
But 'ſdain to taſte the great important fruit,
Which prides itſelf amidſt the pendant leaves;
That of ſtern vice and pureſt virtue, knowledge
Faithful conveys. For that important day

When

When thou raſh taſtes, bears high the fate, and bids
Immediate death. The all-wiſe maker's pow'r
Reflects, and no cohabitant of life
Had yet a birth. He then diſtaſte conceiv'd,
That man ſhould take a ſolitary way.
The ground, the ſole conſtituent of the World,
To the fierce beaſts and winged fowl gave birth.
Theſe had their courſe, by heav'nly guidance, aim'd,
From gloomy haunts, or wide-diſtended hills,
To Adam's hallow'd and divine retreat:
That names what pertinent the firſt Man judg'd,
Superintendant of the conquer'd world
They might receive. To each he pure ſelects
The apteſt name. Then thus th' almighty Lord:
Adam, the firſt great image of thy Maker;
Each after age theſe names ſhall pleaſed give:
That thou, with ſed'lous care, haſt wiſe diſpens'd
To habitants of foreſts, and the air.

Again reflects Jehovah, and appears
No great cohabitant of life:
At this th' All-wise a great distaste conceiv'd,
And lock'd the first-born senses of the Man
In a continued sleep, that opes the gate
To great insensibility, and bears
Pleasing ideas to delighted minds:
His naked side he op'd, which straight disparts,
And leaves a chasm. All nature shocking dreads
An universal ruin, and the mounts
Nod at th' Almighty's work, as sign for sin,
Heaven reclines its circling orb, and stars,
Ungrateful to their sovereign, detain
Their radiant lustre. But what the Godhead will'd
See done. The chasm barr'd, and woman form'd
In vain do falling worlds, or haughty earth
Attempt to bend the sov'reign mind of heav'n,
Indissolubly firm, he stands unmov'd.

Man

Man now as yet inſenſible to ſin,
Which ſhe'l poor, weak, O fraileſt nature! brood,
With ſecret joy receives all nature's pride,
And thus the man. Of me this day thou'rt form'd,
And Woman be thy name, ſince out of man
Thou'rt made. For tend'reſt wife ſhall happy man
Deſert from parents tender ſouls; and true
In ſteady faith, to ſacred her adhere:
Union ſhall joyous bloom betwixt their ſouls:
And yet in ſtate original as form'd,
They unaſham'd liv'd in ſelected land.

FINIS.